

where at least 70% of the power was going. Having tweaked it back - a difficult job in itself because it would start drifting/spropping as soon as you looked at it - we locked at the aerial, a four element beam, giving an swr of 10 plus! definately not suitable. Unfortunately the only other aerials there were suitable for SW until Terry produced what appeared to be a band 2 ex-pmar fibreglass whip aerial complete with about four feet of coax. Problem number three: there were no spare plugs or connectors for joining the aerial to the additional coax needed to reach the tx. This was solved by twisting the cables together, applying a bit of solder and a lot of sellotape, to find that the swr had now dropped to single figures (about 2:1 to 1) By now it was getting latish so we headed back to the B&B leaving Terry and co. with the advice that the FM tx be reduced to its component parts and something better purchased! Arriving back at about 10pm we reckoned that we had about half an hour to find a pub/bar and get down to some serious drinking when we were informed that it being a Sunday and all the bars shut at about 9pm! The remainder of the evening was spent in wiring up tape recorders so that Jack Russell could record Dublin stations all night long! The first mishap of the holiday occurred when JR plugged in a WMR-wired tape deck and promptly blew the circuit fuse! A quick explanation and fitting of a new fuse saved the day. We had three tape decks/radio cassettes with us and managed to record some 70 hours of irish stations, sometimes staying up all night to change tapes. There's dedication for you!

Next Time: Day 1 in Dublin: KISS, Energy 103, C102, TTTR, Liberties etc. Bad news from home, Interesting Interviews. See you in Wavelength 15.

Two BBC Television programmes have recently featured a ship not unlike the m.v. Communicator, home of Laser Hot Hits.

The film series Screen Two had a scene featuring Lenny Henry in which the two lead characters were driving up to the Norfolk coast, when they passed the familiar looking vessel.

American companies often film out of town to cut down on production costs in the main cities of New York and Los Angeles. In the crime series Matt Houston filming took the production team to Fort Lauderdale. Our hero was involved in a chase at the end of which one of the cars went over the edge of the quay, once more a familiar sight in the background, could it be?

QUOTE

From a Radio Two continuity announcer . . . "Brian Matthew will be talking to regular Tuesday guest John Thompson, although of course today is Monday."

On board the Ross Revenge Jamie King returned on January 20th and suggested that a few cards should be put up on the studio wall to cover up the naked women. - "How about the real thing?" said Kevin Turner "Whats wrong with naked men?" said Jamie. "OK" said Kevin. "Serious?" said Jamie. "Indeed" said Kevin

Short Wave station Radio Sovereign ran an interesting Phone In on Boxing Day, The Telephone number was announced several times on air, but despite a good signal no calls were received. The Reason? Somebody had forgotten to plug the socket!

Some people never change. Last Summer Liverpool station Radio Veronica removed DJ Peter Collins from the schedules because he failed to arrive at the studios to present his programmes. It appears that the same Man joined Chester Community Radio, but once again failed to arrive.

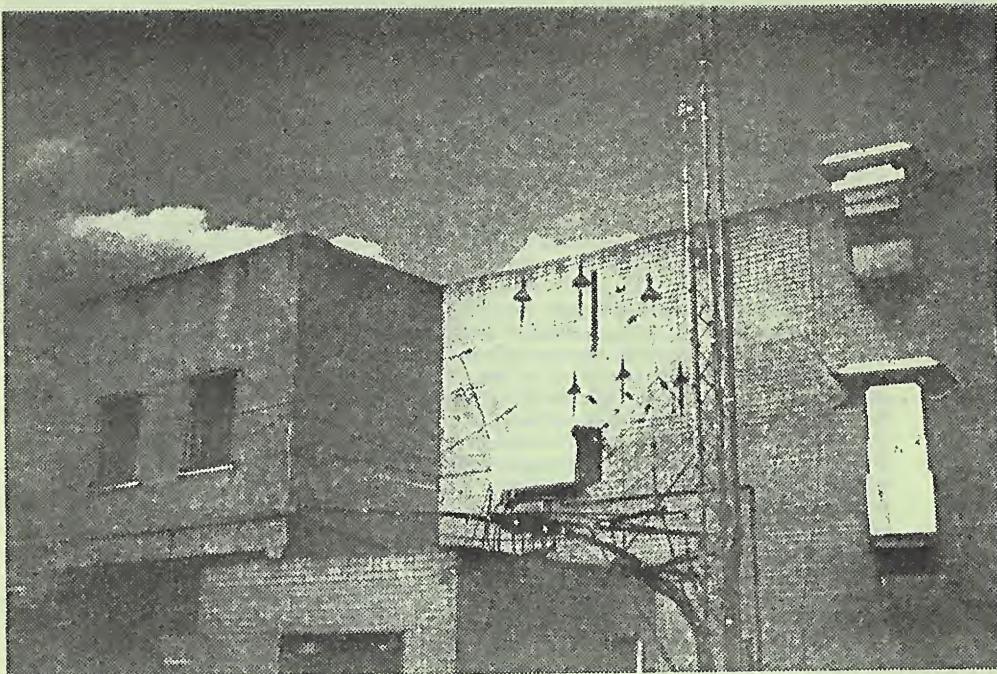
The connection of Hunstanton with radio goes back longer than most people would think. The Norfolk coastal town was Britain's first communication's monitoring centre.

... And Finally the copy date for Wavelength 15 is March 31st.
Thankyou to everyone who has helped with this issue.



FEBRUARY 1987

No.14



SUNSHINE RADIO; Sands Hotel, Portmarnock—
STEVE WEST BOOKS IN, Page 18

PoBox 5, Hunstanton, Norfolk, PE36 5AU.

Welcome

A slight change in design from this edition, which I hope you will all like. Your comments as usual are appreciated. Wavelength 14 is one of the most difficult I have ever put together with several features held over until April.

On the negative side we have been unable to compile our Survey of Free Radio stations due to a lack of response, most disappointing. Paul Watson has now changed his job and is unable to continue as Short Wave editor. (Paul's almost a real journalist!) We seek a replacement.

Adrian Cooke, Editor.

Diary M.V. COMMUNICATOR

From December 8th, where we left the Laser Crew in our last issue the station continued to broadcast from 0500 to the late evening, with K.C., Paul Dean, John 'Rock'n'Roll' Anthony, Andrew Turner and the two unannounced English voices of John Lewis and James Day, both familiar to listeners of Radio Caroline. All however was not well as on Monday December 15th at 1238 Paul Dean closed the station down due to the gale force winds they were experiencing at the time. It became clear that when the station was relaunched on December 1st they were not really ready to resume broadcasting. Transmissions only commenced to save face after Robbie Day's excellent Media build up. Only one of the two transmitters on board the ship was fully functional, and when it was found that this did not properly match up to the antenna system it became necessary to await parts, mainly in the form of new aerial insulators.

Laser Hot Hits made a return on Boxing Day afternoon, we noted them first at 1710 with continuous music and jingles. At 1800 the station theme tune- Abba's 'Thankyou for the music' was followed by the words 'and were back in business' spoken by an Englishman believed to be James Day. The music continued through to Sunday December 28th, when David Lee Stone hosted the Mowtown Magic programme from 1000-1200, after which we were welcomed to a Sixties Sunday otherwise known as a continued diet of non-stop music. The final tests of the year were heard on December 30th when it was announced that the station might be going off during the day.

The station was prevented from making further broadcasts by the failure of the diesel generator, which left the ship with only one functioning, to maintain the life support systems. The communicator had already suffered some problems with the generator. The vessel had dragged her anchor, a result being that this had to be lifted to change the position. This was done whilst transmissions continued the result of which was that cartridges slowed, as there was not enough power to go around, however by early 1987 a new generator was on its way to the ship.

The problems with the generator lead to a fault with the modulation transformer which burnt out. A meeting of the Laser management on January 6th decided that the two mast aerial system would be replaced with a single pole, this according to the Ipswich 'East Anglian Daily Times' of January 10th. What the management could not predict was that the rear mast was to collapse that evening during force 10 gales. The mast was the only original left. With the aerial system still attached the top section of the forward mast was also brought down.

On January 21st some test tones of varying pitches were noted at around 2210 on 576, signal strength was poor in East Anglia. The following day more tones were heard and by the early evening continuous music and jingles were once again emitting from 576. Test transmissions were announced by pre recorded announcements in English and Dutch. On January 23rd we

heard the first of the promised new jingle package. Consisting of strong American Voice Overs and sung logos such as 'The Hottest Hits on Laser', 'Blasting out across the nation-Laser Hot Hits' which were sung, and 'The New Music authority-AM 576' and 'More Hits back to back-Laser Hot Hits' among the Voice Overs. These tests continued for most of the daylight hours with few transmission breaks. The signal was certainly not strong, especially during the early evening when continental interference made the station difficult to monitor even on a local basis. Readers will remember a similar situation when Caroline were using the same channel. The aerial apparently strung up on the deck is only a temporary measure and we would assume that there will be some transmission breaks whilst something more permanent is constructed.

Full programming commenced on February 3rd with Brandy Lee at 0600 followed at 1000 by D.L. Bogart, Brandy returned at 1400, followed again at 1800 by D.L. who lead us into more continuous music until clesdown, announced at 0000 by John Lewis. Andrew Turner read the news hourly, leading up to the top of the hour. Programmes continued through the week with few problems, apart from the lack of on air presenters. On Friday morning and again during the afternoon from 1500 Andrew Turner had to take over from a Sea Sick Brandy Lee. There was no Mowtown Magic programme on February 8th, but the Elvis special was aired on the Sunday Afternoon between 1400 and 1430.

John 'Rock n Roll' Anthony returned on February 9th at 1800 to eliminate the nighttime continuous music on his return a new News jingle was voiced (already) and introduced the following day.

A host of new commercials were heard on February 12th for the Sofa Bed Shop in Bromley, North City Autos, Richards Sound and Vision (A former Caroline advertiser) MIG- BMW Sales, Trade Centre- Used Car Supermarket, and American Discount Furniture.

M.V. ROSS REVENGE

Shortly after 1300 on December 2nd Both Radio Caroline and Radio Monique went off the air, closely followed by Laser. This quickly spread rumours around the Free Radio world that something 'big' was going to happen with a few even suggesting that Laser might open up on 558 and Caroline return to 576. Nothing materialised and both stations returned shortly before 1600

Over the next few days the Ross Revenge stations were to leave the air on several occasions. On December 6th at 0930 Dave James announced that the station was closing down for essential maintenance, which could only be completed during calm seas, the stations remained off the air for the rest of the day. On Sunday the stations went off the air again, this time at 1215, and once more on the Mondayaa sudden clesdown was again made a 1215. At 1530 John Dwyer reopened 558 to present his first programme since the last Friday. Tuesday morning came and Dave James said that he hoped that his programme would today continue past 1215!

On December 15th Mark Matthews continued his Breakfast Show campaign for real music by offering a Roger Whittaker/Des O'Connor Ash Tray and Beer Mat as prize in a competition to devise a name for a group, should Des and Roger choose to form one. The Ash Tray was apparently baked in the ship's oven by Mark along with help from Overdrive's John Tyler, the Mat was of course the record sleeve. A further copy of the record was smashed live on air.

A new version of the News Jingle was heard for the first time on December 22nd with the famous Caroline Bell immediately preceding the theme. The duty newsreader now announced the time at the start of the bulletin. Other hourly time checks had long since disappeared. Musically the format was excluding some of the more silly seasonal record offerings which bedeck the UK Top 40 at this time of year. Today was also the birthday of Caroline Martin, who was baked a cake by John Tyler and Dave James. Caroline was heard presenting a daytime programme the following day, starting at 1500 in place of John Dwyer, with Richard Jackson following as usual at 1700, and Keith Lewis moving forward to 2100, proving himself as a competent host besides the morning news, which he had been reading since the beginning of the week. An early clesdown was made at 0000.

January 4 11 18 25
5 12 19 27
6 13 20 2
7 14 21 2
8 15 22 2
9 16 23 3
10 17 24 3

February 1 8 15 22

Christmas Eve, December 24th and an announced closedown was made at 1030 on both channels, apparently for maintenance which could only be carried out during calm seas. Nonetheless Dave James was not amused and apologised to listeners. The station made its return at 1500 with Dave once again doing the honours. Whilst the station was off the air some adjustments had

been made to the 558 signal, with a notable increase in bandwidth, stretch -ing almost as far as 576! This was the result of a new Optimod unit. At 2020 1600 Stuart Clark joined the team as the station's full time newsreader.

1 8 15 22 2 A new commercial for a Caroline Rock Show was also aired. 2 23 3 John Tyler was responsible for climbing the mast earlier in the day, and it was he who presented Overdrive on 963kHz at 2130, through until 0000 when Mark Matthews took over. Then at 0100 on 558 came the big surprise as John Tyler got his first chance to present a programme on 558. He immediately announced that he was really a Soul Boy at heart and began to send up the format, not only announcing the records, but where they came on the play-list 'An optional C play, Paul Young' announced John who despite having his 'Pulse on the music on 558' was having some problems with working the controls.

Christmas Day came with most of the crew feeling slightly the worse for drink. Christmas Cards were read out all day with Mark Matthews finding great delight in a musical card sent by FRC Holland, which played Jingle Bells when it was opened. Peter Phillips returned at 2100. Christmas on Overdrive began at 2130 with a Spin Radio Concert by the Del Fuegos, which made up for the missed concert of the previous week. At 2230 Mark Matthews and John Tyler jointly presented the inevitable Overdrive Radio Party, with the Top 10 humorous drop ins of 1986 including P.C. Plod used Car sharks.

New Years Eve, December 31st, 1986 and the build up to the New Years Eve party, to be hosted by Mark Matthews from 2000 featuring the Years Top 50. Earlier in the day Mark Matthews proved how easy it was to 'lace' a cartridge, Richard Jackson found that he was to perform a striptease! The Top 50 was a mixture of the year's most popular records and the favourites of those on board.

The Top 10 read thus;

1. Peter Gabriel-Sledgehammer.
2. Falco-Rock Me Amadeous.
3. Bruce Hornsby and the Range- 'The Way it is.
4. Diana Ross-Chain Reaction.
5. The Communards-Don't leave Me this way.
6. Sly Fox-Let's go all the Way,
7. Pet Shop Boys-West End Girls.
8. Berlin-Take My breath away.
9. Heart-These Dreams.
10. Cliff Richard and the Young Ones-Living Doll.

Meanwhile on Overdrive Peter Phillips made his first appearance on the alternative music service, followed at 0000 by John Tyler. Peter then moved across to 558 where he hosted from 0100.

January 1, 1987. A Happy New Year with most of the Ross Revenge crew again slightly the worse for drink. Dave James hosted the breakfast show until 0900 when Mark Matthews took over. No News bulletins appeared until 1000, the first of which was read by Mark, then from 1100 by Stuart Clark, News appeared on the hour for the rest of the day, until 1800. Richard Jackson was insistant on presenting his 1300 show, despite an offer to host it by Keith Lewis, but half an hour beforehand Richard returned to bed and Keith had to present it after all.

A change in the musical format came in the new Year with more current material and 80s oldies replacing music from the 60s and 70s. Album Tracks have virtually disappeared from the 558 playlist.

After the confusion of the Christmas programmes schedules returned to near normality, the following day Mark Matthews commenced one of his marathon sessions behind the microphone, starting with the breakfast show on 558, then moving on to Overdrive at 2130 and the following morning the breakfast show once more. At 1700 that evening he was back with a further two hours of Drivetime. On this occasion he was followed by Kevin Turner returning to the ship for the first time since his day long stay on November 4th Kevin declared that 'they're breaking me back in gently', for it

was a 2 hour show lasting until 2100. Kevin was followed by new name Rob Charles who programmed through until closedown. Meantime Mark continued with Overdrive on 963. John Tyler had left the ship along with Richard Jackson and Dave James. The following morning Kevin returned to the Breakfast show, which resulted in the postponement of the advanced stage of Dutch lessons Mark had promised us. The schedule now looked like this;

0500 Kevin Turner.

0900 Peter Phillips,

1300 Keith Lewis

1700 Mark Matthews

1900 Keith Lewis

2100 Rob Charles

0100 Closedown,

Newsreader:
Stuart Clark.

Overdrive with Mark Matthews ran from 2130 to 0200.

On Friday morning January 9th Kevin commented that instead of his usual morning programme Peter Phillips was going up the mast. A closedown was then made from 0900-1200 after which the stations returned to the air.

Saturday saw the first Overdrive programme from the new engineer on board Mike Watts, although Mike had been heard on air before during the New Years Eve party when he guided the remote microphone around the mess. He presented the first Blues Overdrive, adding further variety to the service.

Caroline 558 disappeared at 1700, on January 16th and nothing was heard from the stations until 1030 the following morning when Kevin Turner opened up and apologised for the late start which was due to 'essential antenna maintenance'. Peter Phillips had once more been up the mast.

Several changes in the line up took place on January 20th. At 0900 Rob Charles moved programmes to replace Peter Phillips, at 1300 it was the debut of Richard Staines, 1700 Jamie King and 2100 Dave Ellis. Mark Matthews continued on Overdrive, until January 24th when no Overdrive was heard as such. In its place a number of test transmissions announced as 'Caroline 963'. No further Overdrive programmes were heard until January 29th when we heard test transmissions again with the voice of Mike Watts, on subsequent days non stop music interspersed with Overdrive jingles was heard, until February 2nd when the service closed directly after the Viewpoint programmes at 2130.

Stuart Clark left the ship on February 1st and since then News has been read by Peter Phillips.

PEOPLE

Amongst the new staff to join the Offshore stations recently Rob Charles is one of many who have worked for the Voice Of Peace in past months, in addition he has spent time on Radio West, Mullingar Ireland and at KFM in Manchester. Stuart Clark again has been involved with the Voice of Peace, but is also known for his regular contributions to Free Radio Waves magazine and has previously worked for Short Wave station Atlanta Radio, RBL from France, and Radio Sovereign on the Italian Riviera. Richard Staines has previously worked in the Irish Republic, and like Dave Ellis has worked on (Surprise Surprise) The Voice of Peace.

On Laser Hot Hits D.L. Bogart (Europe's most desired Bachelor-His words not ours) hails from the mississippi. .

M.V. NANNEL

After being rather quiet the Nannel has once more surfaced on the rumour vine. On January 19th, 20th and 21st several articles appeared in the Dutch press such as Provinciale Zeeuwse Courant, Limburgs Dagblad and Drents Dagblad stating that under new backers the Nannel is about to sail, bringing a fourth offshore station. Although on the whole nothing new has been added which hasn't already been reported. The only difference now being the possible involvement of new Dutch backers which we assume has brought on the sudden interest from the Netherlands.

FM 88	92	96	100	104	108	MHz
SW 60	65	80	100	130	180	MHz
MW 54	60	70	80	100	120	140
LW 150	170	190	220	250	270	285

Paul Watson GREAT BRITAIN

ABC Radio (1) is the name for a new British short wave station which plans to broadcast on the 1st and 3rd sundays of every month and will use the Wuppertal address.

RADIO APOLLO were heard on December 28th on 6293 (2)

BRITAIN RADIO INTERNATIONAL finally returned on January 25th after a number of test transmissions in the preceding months. In a special information sheet they explain why they were erratic during 1986. Their January broadcast was a rundown of the best selling singles of 1986 (as if we hadn't enough chart run downs already) However problems with tape machines meant that programming between 1100 and 1200 was lost. Normal programmes are resumed on every 4th Sunday with our very own Adrian Cooke doing the Free Radio show. (3 & 4)

RADIO EAST COAST COMMERCIAL have been heard around the Christmas period and the first Sunday in January. They are scheduled to broadcast on 6230 every 1st Sunday. (2)

RADIO EUROPA were heard for the first time on January 25th using 6330, but had a few problems with utility stations. The presentation was amateurish, and sounded live. Station manager Gary Lewis says they hope to broadcast between 8am and 1pm every Sunday with their pop and oldies format.

FMTR continue to broadcast every week on 6319. But on January 18th they announced these regular weekly programmes would end due to the threat of a DTI purge on British short wave operators - but they still broadcast erratically. (5)

RADIO KRISTEL made a post-christmas transmission on December 28th using 6220 (6).

RADIO MONOOSE broadcast occasionally using the out of band frequency of 6815- let's hope it doesn't interfere with NATO Communications. They are closely related to RADIO PAMELA (7).

RADIO ORION (8) remain the most regular broadcaster on 48 metres using 6280 for weekday broadcasts and 6266 for the Sunday broadcasts. I wonder how many people there are to actually listen during the week?

RADIO PAMELA push ORION as another very active 48 metres broadcaster. They too have had a tendency to use out of band frequencies (9) Also planned are evening programmes on 3500kHz.

SONA SOUND RADIO is a station organised by Richard Graham who you might remember has been closely associated with PAMELA He plans to use the station to relay his own golden oldie shows.

SPECTRUM HOT HITS is another name for Spectrum World Broadcasting now under the new management of Jay Burkette. The new look was launched with a marathon broadcast over Christmas, but he had some problems in finding a clear frequency on 48 metres. The free radio world is puzzling over whether he is doing a send up of Laser or is deadly serious. I suspect the former. Look out for another marathon at Easter from the station. (10)

UK RADIO were reportedly making a transmission on 6805 on January 2nd, but none of our reporters heard anything. (11)

WFRL continue with their 2nd Sunday broadcasts on 6300, although RADIO NOVA has been annoying them by popping up on the channel without checking it is clear. The February broadcast was delayed for a week due to pressure of work. On Boxing Day they made a marathon 6½ hour broadcast, although the start was delayed when Andy Walker forgot to bring the audio leads to the transmission site. (2)

WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO also appear at Public Holidays-and Christmas 1986 was no exception with Jack Russell playing music and introducing telephone calls over the period. (12)

RADIO SOVEREIGN continue to broadcast regularly on 6295. They, too were very active over the Christmas period. They have also been confusing listeners by using different names like ALTERNATIVE MUSIC RADIO, RADIO ANORAK and RADIO 6240. These different names were mainly used when station operator Tim Stevens was calling Q. (13)

RADIO ATLANTIS SHORTWAVE (2) was heard with a very weak signal in Kent on Christmas Day using 6220.

IRELAND

FALCON RADIO, who broadcast via the INTERNATIONAL RATIO RELAY SERVICE hope to continue regularly using 6815 although they are looking for a 41 metre band outlet around 7315, a frequency on which they have been heard occasionally. (14)

RADIO IRELAND INTERNATIONAL have been heard every Sunday on 6310 with a good solid signal. (15)

PREMIER RADIO INTERNATIONAL were heard with a faint signal on 6216 on January 25th

RADIO RAINBOW have been somewhat erratic of late due to work pressure on Drogheda's Boyneside Radio, where the team work. They returned on January 18th using 6240, but the Free Radio Programme was a repeat of one broadcast before Christmas. (16)

RIVERSIDE RADIO plans to use 6825 instead of 6525 from where he plans to relay the Canadian Maple Leaf Radio. Riverside (18) have also been noted relaying the French RADIO LIBERTY SOUNDS (17)

SKULL AND BONES RADIO SYSTEM returned to the air on January 4th after a lengthy absence using 6210 (15) The test was supposedly to prepare the ground for the return of RADIO VALLERI

RADIO SKYWAVE have been heard every Sunday using 6260 (14). Relays of GOOD NEWS RADIO have been dropped, but have been replaced by others such as RADIO SOUNDS and VOICE OF GUERNSEY. The latter was first heard January 18th and again the following Sunday.

SCOTTISH RELAY NETWORK is a group of stations that have their programmes relayed from a transmitter in Ireland. In this network are RADIO LYNDY, RADIO OMEGA and RADIO STELLA. They are found on 6273 and all use the Salisbury address. (3)

RADIO VALLERI (see above) was indeed heard on 6210, January 18.

WESTSIDE RADIO continue regular as ever on 6280. (19)

EUROPE

THE ANGLO SAXON BROADCASTING CORPORATION plans to be relayed by FMTR on the third Sunday of the month on 6319kHz. (20)

RADIO DELMARE are on the air Saturdays and Sundays with a mixture of their own produced programmes and various relays. The station will be opening up a channel in the 19 metre band to broadcast to Africa in French and English, these programmes will take place during the week. A late night Saturday service is also announced on 6225kHz from 2300. Listeners are invited to join the Delmara listeners Club for £5, for which they will receive regular magazines and news of the Station. An interesting sales sheet is also available. (21)

FRS-HOLLAND(FREE RADIO SERVICE HOLLAND) are regularly relayed by Delmara on the third Sunday of the Month, with Ultra professional programming from 0900. They tell us that a brand new information sheet is now available, this in addition to the FRS Goes Dx Newsletter, which is published monthly following the broadcasts. (22)

RADIO NORMAAL (23) were logged on November 30th, and throughout December on 6276.

PFBS- PIRATE FREAKS BROADCASTING SERVICE (3 & 22) were noted at 1000 on December 21st on 6293, moving to 6284 during their Christmas Day transmission.

RAINBOW RADIO GERMANY (24) will not be making any further transmissions until April/May 1987 when they hope to have their own 50 watt rig back in service. The station is also planning relays via some of the late night Dutch operators after 0000 midnight, including Radio Nightrider.

Relay station SATELITE BROADCASTING COMPANY who operate via the Delmare transmitters on 6205 are planning to improve the station, which currently has a Soul, Disco and Funk music format. This will include their own transmitter, which they will be using two to three times each year(1)

SUD WEST RADIO (25) were heard again December 14th using 6230. SWR have a power of 60 watts into a dipole antenna.

ADDRESS BOOK

1. Postfach 22 03 42, 5600 Wuppertal 22, West Germany.
2. Po Box 5, Hunstanton, Norfolk, PE36 5AU. England.
3. 32 Victoria Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 3NG, England.
4. Postbus 19074, 3501 DB, Utrecht, The Netherlands.
5. Po Box SH9, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 1AC, England.
6. 514 Brighton Road, Croydon, Surrey. England.
7. Flat A, 129B Milton Road, Gravesend, Kent. England.
8. 828 Edgewood Road, Rednall Birmingham, B45 8SG. England.
9. 3 Rosewarne Cottages, Rosewarne Downs, Carborne, Cornwall TR14 0BE. England.
10. EM Broadcasting, London, London, WC1N 3XX.England.
11. Po Box 143, Wolverhampton, West Midlands England. (Last known Address).
12. 42 Arran Close, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge, England.
13. EM Nectar, London WC1N 3XX. England.
14. Po Box 1686, Dublin, Eire.
15. 10 North Richmond Street, Dublin 1, Eire.
16. 151 Moneymore, Drogheda, County Louth, Ireland.
17. JLV 2 Rue du Vieux-Moulin, 62630, Etaples, France.
18. Po Box 39, Waterford, Eire.
19. 310 Collins Avenue West, Dublin, Eire.
20. ASBC, Gummark, D-2340 Kappeln, West Germany .
21. Postbus 36, B-2050, Antwerp, Belgium.
22. Postbus 41, 7700 AA Dedemsvaart, The Netherlands.
23. Po Box 395, 2980 AJ Ridderek, The Netherlands.
24. Postbus 725, 6800 AS Arnhem, The Netherlands. With thanks to Podney R.Sixx and Bradley Allen.
25. Postfach 1471, 6690 St.Wendel, West Germany.

OFFSHORE is the Publication of the 'Caroline Radio Club'. Available quarterly Offshore is written in English and Dutch and contains many high quality photographs in between the News , Features and Interviews . Membership of the Caroline Radio Club is as follows UK and Ireland £9.00, Germany 25DM, Belgium 500 Bfrs, France 85Ffrs or The Netherlands f 25. In subsequent years membership is £7/20DM/400Bfrs/70Ffrs/f20. Spring issue available shortly.

LONDON

Andy Walker

After digging myself out of the snow, here we are again taking a look at those naughty radio stations which broadcast in and out of the London area. Firstly, as I predicted in Wavelength 12(October) The first of the big soul stations has returned to the capital's Airwaves. SOLAR RADIO on 93 FM Stereo came back on the air around December 7th, 1986. A Welcome return for one of the best Soul stations in London. WEBS, Much hyped, and a big anti-climax lost their transmitter in the third week of December, and have not been heard again as yet. Also in this week, a station calling itself CDR- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RADIO came on the air on 88.6 FM Playing a mixture of Soul, Jazz, Soca and African music with Community News aimed at the massive London Area, I wish them all the best. STAR-POINT RADIO who lost their transmitter to the DTI in mid - December have also failed to return to the air, As Yet, but the big boys TKO, LWR, and the Weekender KISS are all still going strong, pumping out the Soul to the masses, as is TIME RADIO on 103.7 FM Broadcasting from North West London, Live and 24 hours. JBC on 105 FM Stereo currently hold the record for lasting 4 months without a raid. There is talk that the DTI do not wish to raid the station for fear of inciting riots. JBC transmits Black Community Programming for the London Borough of Brent, controlled by the Labour council under Bernie Grant. TWILIGHT RADIO, that awful Reggae station have been on, and off the air throughout December on 92.8 FM. LCR - LONDON GREEK RADIO are still 'doing it' to the 'Bubbles' in London. Bubbles is Cockney Slang used by Londoners, Meaning, Bubble and squeak - an English food dish, Bubble and Squeak, Greek shortened to bubble.

I can at last hear DLR-DIRECT LINE RADIO, who have moved from 105.5 FM to 92.7 FM, They are a low powered Soul station broadcasting from the Crystal Palace area known as Pirate Alley to London.

I understand that London's TV pirate NETWORK 21 are still going strong, but I still have not managed to receive them yet.

On Sunday 11th January I got home from the WFRL site to find that Uncle Eric Gots and Co had raided TKO, LWR and KISS, just before all that bad weather, Does Eric know something we don't ? TKO and LWR were back on the air by Wednesday 14th, and KISS, although apparently being a Weekend station, returned on the Thursday. QUEST FM 89.9 FM were on the air on Wednesday 21st, according to a report I received. I heard them for the first time myself on Saturday 24th . I met some of the chaps from Quest last year at my local Pub, where they were doing the Saturday night Disco. We had a long chat about how the station was run, about having trouble with a Cowboy rig builder who was making up the transmitters which never worked very well, however everything seems to be alright now with a good signal at this end.

TKO have changed channel to 90.6 FM from 90.9 FM. LWR are still on 92.5 FM and KISS in Stereo on 94 FM. by Sunday January 25th TKO, LWR and Kiss were all off air. Raids must have taken place maybe late Saturday Evening or early Sunday morning. QUEST were still on, and so were TIMS RADIO on 103.7, TWILIGHT RADIO had also appeared, on 93 FM playing Soul Music with th odd Anti Aids promotion. by the time Sunday afternoon came around Quest had gone. Did they have the brains to switch off when the big boys were caught ? or has Uncle Eric got another notch on his LFing aerial. I assume that TWILIGHT had also gone, as on 92.8 FM with a very strong signal was a station playing Top 40 Records (Gasp!) The station calling itself SLS- SOUTH LONDON SOUNDS has got brains and guts not to put another Soul station on the air . Well done Chaps, well almost well done they did play Nick Berry's record (Gasp Again! - Where's My Respirator ?) All jokes aside I wish them all the best. The Jingles however are really bad and are done using one of those Kiddies talking computer toys. The station are not too far away from here, and use 50 watts of power. The audio is the best I've heard for a long time.

LWR and QUEST were back on the air on Monday. QUEST seem to be on all day every day at the moment, along with TIME, JBC etc. LWR had gone on Tuesday morning. A raid is not thought to have put them off the air, but rig trouble. I hear that the DTI are going to bust all the short wave stations. Whoops, here comes Eric. - Beam me up Scottie.

January 27th, 1987.

MERSEYSIDE

The radio scene on Merseyside is looking distinctly quiet with just a handful of regular stations on the air.

RADIO MERSEY WAVES 1242 kHz medium wave extended their normal weekend schedule to a full 7 day service between 22nd and 28th December with few problems. A higher powered transmitter was brought into use from Christmas Eve onwards. The normal schedule was resumed after Christmas on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 0800 to 0200 most days. Over the holiday period Merseywaves was able to organise two separate 'Nights Out' one for Over 18s, the other for the Under 18s. Format is more or less Disco and Night Club music with some oldies now included from time to time. The address is 9 Meadfoot Road, Moreton, Merseyside, L46 7UW.

RADIO JULIE 104.8 FM made a return to the air over Christmas following a short absence. Both schedules and format are difficult to follow, and the station itself has some difficulty in establishing which is which. Operational day is officially Sunday, but the station is heard on other occasions. Continuous music is broadcast when the station have no DJs available to present a programme. Radio Julie have announced that they intend to increase the power on FM and introduce a medium wave service.

CENTRAL RADIO 1404 kHz can be heard on Saturdays and Sundays usually transmitting for around 12 hours on each day. The station had planned to go off the air at the end of January to enable some work to be carried out on the equipment, however there appear to be some internal disagreements on this matter. 30 Elkstone Road, Norris Green, Liverpool, L11 2TD.

CONCEPT RADIO 104.3 FM, likewise are planning some maintenance on their equipment. The station can often be heard on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. Address as for Central.

STORETON COMMUNITY RADIO 1026 kHz made some test transmissions on January 31st, but have not been noted afterwards. It is thought that the station was trying to keep her frequency open.

A mysterious carrier has been on 102.3 since before Christmas with no sign of any programming. There are also plans for a new high powered Medium wave station to broadcast a Hit format with a station anti drugs and AIDS campaign.

RADIO VERONICA 104.7 FM continue to broadcast low powered tests every Sunday afternoon whilst the station continues to look for a new transmitter site. 81 Lark Lane, Liverpool L7 8UP.

KDA were raided by the DTI at midnight on December 7th. The station was relaying Concept Radio, who as well as Merseywaves switched off their transmitter.

With thanks to Allen Dean, Neil Frazer and Tim Jackson.

COUNTRYWIDE

NOTTINGHAM

COSMOS RADIO 97.5 FM can be heard every Tuesday evening between 2100 and 2200. DJs on the station are Mike Megahert and Steve Stylus! Box 765, Nottingham Recorder, 106-116 Front Street, Arnold, Nottingham.

CHESTER COMMUNITY RADIO 103.5 made their usual holiday appearance, noted December 21st with a promise of further transmissions over Easter 1987.

YORKSHIRE

Leeds now has three regular stations on the air at weekends. They are; ABC-FM 94.6 FM, MCR 90.4 and RADIO RADAR 104.5 FM

SOLENT: David Williams.

CHANNEL RADIO could be heard broadcasting in and around the Solent Area with a strong signal on New Year's Day, January 1st, 1987 down on 263 metres medium wave. DJs on the station were Mark Matthews (Not the Radio Caroline one), Baby Bob, Nick Phillips and Mick McCay. The station still does not give out any mailing address or telephone number.

France

The international service of RBL, Radio Boulogne Littoral continues to broadcast on Sunday and Monday evenings. Programmes are in English, and aimed at the sizeable audience able to receive the station on the South Coast of England on 91.6 FM Stereo. Schedule is as follows;

Sunday.

2200 RBL Remembers (Oldies Show)
2300 Mark Daniels
0000 RBL Nightshift

Monday

1900 Tim Stewart
2030 Mark Allen
2200 Mark Daniels
2300 Jeff Johnson
0030 RBL Nightshift

Programme Guide

DAILY BROADCASTERS.

RADIO ORION.

Weekdays. 6280kHz
1000-1300 Good Music and Entertainment.
Saturdays. 6280kHz
1000 Norman Nelson: 50s and early 60s.
1100 Mike Wilson: 60s.
1200 Paul Johnson: 70s.
1300 Closedown (approximate time).
2nd Saturday Only
0900-1000 and 1300 to Closedown.
Relay of Radio East Coast Commercial.
Sundays. 6266kHz
1000-1300 Good Music and Entertainment.
A frequency change to 6320 is being considered.

RADIO PAMELA.

Monday-Saturday. 6240kHz.
0930-1230 Steve Most, Richard Graham and Guest DJs.
Sundays. 6224kHz.
0930-1230 Steve Most, Richard Graham and Guest DJs.

4th Sunday with Weekday Repeat
Pirate Panorama with Adrian Cooke.

SATURDAYS.

RADIO DELMARE. 6205kHz.
0830 Delmare in English, French, German, Dutch and Arabic.
1100 FRC.
1600 Mike Collins.
1700 Closedown.

SUNDAYS.

RADIO DELMARE. 6205kHz.
0600 Delmare with Mike Collins in English and Jack Barelli in French.
0900 Delmare Relays: Radio CLCC, Radio Marabu, Radio Limit, Radio Brazillia, Radio LS, Radio Privat, Radio Scorpio, Radio Discoline, Radio Pogo 104, Holiday Radio, 4FWS, Radio Aro, Radio Sunrise, World Star Radio, Radio Freetime, FRSN, Radio Titanic, Right-Wing Radio, Radio Pamela, Radio California, RSI,

WBSI, Catholic Media Office, Islamic Mission.
1500 (Approximate Time) Delmara.
1730 Closedown.

RADIO IRELAND.6310kHz
Tony Lynch and Tony Healey.

RADIO RAINBOW.6240kHz
0900 Relays.
1000 Jim Agnew Show.
1100 Kieran Murray's Free Radio News Programme.
1200 Heady Eddie's 'Going Back in Time Show'
1300 Closedown.

RADIO SKYWAVE.6260
0900-1300
Every Second Week
Relay of Radio Sounds.
Transmissions are also made on 7300

WESTSIDE RADIO.6280
Including at 1200 FRC Programme.

1st SUNDAY.

RADIO EAST COAST COMMERCIAL.6230kHz
Including Dx Programme with Norman Nelson.

2nd SUNDAY.

WFRL.6300kHz.
(0900 Sproggy/Tony Holms/Lisa)
1000 Andy Walker, Top 40, Oldies, Soul and at 1030 Free Radio News.
1100 Tender Trip with Ian Johnston.
1200 Sproggy/Tony Holms/Lisa
March: 1200 German Service with Simon Hendrix.

3rd SUNDAY.

FRS HOLLAND.6205kHz.
0854 Opening
0900 FRS Magazine: Peter Verbruggen
0945 FRS Golden Show: Joop ter Zee
1015 FRS Goes Dx: Peter Verbruggen
1100 German Show: Danny Kay
1145 International Listeners' Letter Show: Gerd and Peter.

=====
STILL AVAILABLE! The popular Starboard Offshore Documentary Tapes; SSS1
Marine Offences Act Special, SSS2 The Highly commended Laser Special, SSS3
Mi Amigo Special. The cost is £3 each or £7 for all three. Outside Europe,
the cost is £4 each or £10 for all three, Make Cheques and Postal Orders
payable to 'Wavelength'.

1215 Sounds Alternative: Joop ter Zee
1300 Free Radio Spot: Documentary.
1330 Musical Express: Bert Van Leer
1415 International Listeners' Letter Show, Part 2.
1445 FRS Goes Nuts.
1500 Closedown, return to Delmara.

4th SUNDAY.

BRITAIN RADIO INTERNATIONAL.6230kHz.
1000 German Service: Simon Hendrix
1030 Roger Davis:
February Oldies from 1969 and Horoscope readings for Pisces March, Oldies from 1981 and Horoscope readings for Aries.
1130 Free Radio Programme: Adrian Cooke, followed by Mailbag.

1200 Jayne
1230 Close
5th Sunday Broadcast. March 29th.

1000 Jayne
1030 Roger Davis
1200 Guest DJ
1230 Special Feature
1300 Close

RADIO KRISTEL.6220kHz.

SCOTTISH FREE RADIO NETWORK.6275kHz.
1st Sunday: North West European Radio
2nd Sunday: Radio Lynda/Radio Woodstock.
3rd Sunday: Radio Omega
4th Sunday: Radio Stella
5th Sunday: North West European Radio

Other current irregular operators include
Great Britain: Radio Apollo, 6293kHz, FMTR, 6319kHz, Spectrum Hot Hits, 48 metre band, Starboard Sound, 6300. Radio Sovereign, 6295kHz, Weekend Music Radio, 48 metre band.
Ireland: Falcon Radio, 48 metre band, Riverside Radio, 6525
Europe: Radio Normal 16276kHz, Radio Neptune, 6300kHz, Radio Nova, 6297kHz. Radio Tonair, 6240kHz.

News spread across the Short Wave world on January 10th with details of a planned purge on the short wave stations by the DTI. The warning affects mainly the 6mHz operators. The reason for the purge is that the DTI are currently satisfied with the progress being made on Medium wave and FM.

Many operators are currently reviewing their plans. FMTR have reduced their schedule and are tightening up their security, likewise at Radio Sovereign. But WFRL's Andy Walker told us 'We are still going ahead'.

The last set of major raids on Short wave was in 1982 when both East Coast Commercial and Radio Caroline Short Wave were put off the air, although there been others since then, notably at Radio East Coast Commercial and Radio Lynda.

At the December Christmas Party held by the Caroline Movement we caught up with LASER 558 favourite TOMMY RIVERS. In Britain now on a permanent basis as head of American News Agency RPI Tommy told us that he was enjoying surveying the media scene. The return of Laser was the obvious topic of conversation, and asked about the format he replied that it was 'A Bit sparse' Tommy expected it to improve when the full crew joined the ship, probably joining the Communicator from France, but how did the station sound compared to his days on board?

'I think we were much tighter as far as the format goes, and they're not enough jocks out there to handle regular shifts'. Tommy thought that it was best to leave judgement until the station had got fully off the ground. As for the only Englishman to be included in the team, Newsreader Andrew Turner, Tommy said that it did not think it was the ideal career move, but that it was his own decision.

During 1986 Tommy married his English born wife Sue, and before returning to Britain worked as a news reporter on a talk station in Minneapolis.

More criticism has been leveled at Britain's National Pop channel BBC Radio One. In his Bizarre column in the Sun newspaper Jonathan King states that audiences have tuned away in favour of London's unlicensed Soul stations, Laser and Caroline. Most of the blame was given to breakfast DJ Mike Smith who King says 'Can virtually do what he likes' and this apparently includes criticism of his fellow Radio One presenters. At the same time the article sites the development of the commercial stations, and their new found ability to 'break' records. As an answer King suggests that both Radio One and Radio Two should be scrapped in favour of small, low powered FM stations.

A reply was given by Ex Caroline, and Radio One DJ Tony Blackburn who now hosts a highly successful daily soul show on BBC Radio London. Tony Blackburn has voiced his opinion on the development of Radio in the past. In his regular soul spot of the ITV Teletext service Oracle he said about Radio One 'It's supposedly a 'Youth' station, yet ignores the fact that British youth likes to spend its time in clubs and discoteques. He continues by voicing an argument many of us have used before by stating that America is 'Years ahead' in their development of radio.

The Department of Trade and Industry has taken action against the Offshore Radio News section on Prestel to prevent publication of station frequencies and addresses. In a Press Release the editor of Offshore News, John Mann told how following the publication of an item on the return of Laser shown on December 3rd he received a telephone call from Denise Shemul of Micronet, the Prestel section of which Offshore Radio News is part. Quoting clause 5(3(f)) of the Marine, &c., Broadcasting Offences Act 1967 she asked if Mr. Mann knew that his 'Offshore News' pages could be in contravention of the Act. Aware of previous prosecutions under act Mr. Mann said that he was not know that it applied to editorial matter. In spite of this he was asked to delete all references to station frequencies and addresses, or face having entire pages deleted. He reluctantly agreed. Ms Shemul admitted that the request was instigated by the DTI.

Mr. Mann feels that the DTI have purposely mislead Micronet, and the section was in fear of a prosecution being brought against them despite no prosecution ever being made against a newspaper of Free Radio Maga-

zine for publishing frequencies.

There has however been much comment in favour of Offshore Radio News. Speaking to WAVELENGTH Mr. Mann said that he had received numerous support from those on the micronet system, all of which had been against the DTI action.

Writer and Broadcaster JAY JACKSON has announced that he wishes to be known under his real name - Howard G.L. Rose announcing his decision in the December 27th issue of the fortnightly Now Radio Newsletter, of which he is Editor Mr. Rose said that it was 'really crazy to be using a name other than my own in this day and age'. He will however continue to use the name Jay Jackson for his weekly programmes on Leeds based ILR station Radio Aire.

The Caroline Movement held their annual Christmas Party on December 13th, at St. Margaret's Hall, Leytonstone London. A number of names from both Offshore and Landbased radio attended, including Kevin Turner, Tommy Rivers, Susan Charles, Jay Jackson, Andy Johnston, Stuart Clark, Andy Walker (?) and Mark Stafford. Free Radio organisations were well represented with displays from the Caroline Movement, WFRL, RNLI and ourselves at Wavelength. The bar was well supported and various raffles and competitions took place. The only criticism was the rather rushed speeches made at the end of the evening. The next major event planned by the movement is a 'Flashback '67' event later in the year.

Following last year's postponement of the Community Radio project in Britain the Community Radio Association is seeking compensation to the tune of £287,000 from the Government.

The Asian magazine programme 'Bandung File' on February 7th featured an item on London's Community stations under the title 'Raiding the Pirates'. The programme had planned part of the feature to include the running of JBC Radio and filming went ahead on January 29th, however an unexpected visitor arrived in the form of Eric Goffs and a DTI team who promptly raided the station. The raid was filmed and shown in the Bandung File's primetime Saturday Evening slot. Amongst other people appearing were Dr. Zannetos Tofallis of London Greek Radio and Peter Baldwin, Director of Radio, IBA.

Ex Offshore DJ Johnnie Walker has made a return to National Radio in Great Britain. On January 17th he presented the first Stereo Sequence programme to be broadcast by BBC Radio One every Saturday afternoon. Johnnie who took us through the MOA back in August 1967 and later joined Radio One before heading for the United States has been given a virtual free hand in what he presents, providing it makes use of the Stereo facility available to the station at that time. Johnnie commenced his first record programme at 3pm by playing what he described as the jingle.

Results

Answers to the grid shown in Wavelength 13.

1. Roy Bates	8. Peoples' Choice.
2. Cuttings Club.	9. Pin Magazine.
3. Graham Symonds.	10. Ad Roberts.
4. Hot Hits.	11. Radio Scorpio.
5. Peter Phillips.	12. C.W. Kellock.
6. Radio Sovereign.	13. Radio Phoenix.
7. Radio Penfold.	

These answers spelt out the name BUSTER PEARSON, founder of Monitor Magazine. Many thanks to all who entered, first out of the Wavelength boater was Stuart Allan, West Yorkshire. He wins the Starboard Laser Cassette, and some paint chippings from the m.v. Communicator's first voyage to the Knock Deep.



On Saturday January 31st, 1987, A new pirate station came on the air from a tower block of flats in Battersea, near Chelsea in London. Cruise FM on 92.8 is not just any radio station, it is aimed at a specialist audience. For over 12 years on the last Saturday in the month, hundreds of motorists take their gleaming machines (cars) to the Battersea Park area of London to show off their paint jobs, cromed engines and flash wheels to the people who turn up every time to see the great cars of yesteryear. American cars from the 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s plus the great old cars from the Englishman's past, are all seen driving around the park or down side streets near the Prince Albert Public House on Albert Bridge Road. The Prince Albert Pub is the main centre of the Chelsea/Battersea Cruise owners and enthusiasts stand drinking and talking about what lumps and blocks they have under the hood (engines under the bonnet), and how much money they have spent on wheels, paint jobs and a 100 other topics to do with cars. Amongst the drinkers and talkers in the bar, or standing on the pavement outside, stands three of four people, designer stubble on their faces and engine grease under their fingernails, these are the motley crew who run Cruise FM. WFRL's Andy Walker and Sproggy stand with Dick Rogers, listening to the many cars passing the corner on which they stand blasting out Cruise FM on their car stereos. The equipment sits alone on a tower block of flats in the tank room, the 3 watt transmitter (Just enough to cover the circuit), Power Supply and Auto-Reverse cassette Player are plugged into a time switch that will turn everything off at 2300 hours. The aerial sits high above the tower block on a 12' mast beamed towards the park circuit, pumping out the 1950s + 60s Rock and Roll which is the main music the American and Classic Car enthusiasts listen to. The Brainwave of Andy Walker, Cruise FM is set to be a rip roaring success, The Money, put up by Andy and Dick Rogers, hopefully will be recouped with Advertising from the American car parts and spares outlets and performance parts centres around London, A rate card has already been printed, and the push to sell advertising on the station now begins. The programme pace is fast and full of fun, a sound long lost from the airwaves of the UK, even though cruise FM is low powered, it is only aimed at the Chelsea/Battersea Cruise on the last Saturday in the month, not the Free Radio Fan.

Walker and Rogers both own 1970s American Cars, Andy has a 1971 Dodge SE, long and wide with a 5.2 Litre Engine under the hood, Dick Rogers, A long term friend of Andy, has a 1979 Pontiac Firebird with 4.9 Litre lump in it. Both of them spend any spare cash on their cars, and both of them want bigger engines, At least 7 litres, think of all that petrol, phew!! The idea of Cruise FM came to Andy after watching the film American Graffiti for the 200th time, a story about American kids in a small town driving around in their cars listening to Wolfman Jack on the radio. The Cruise isn't organised, there's a great sense of spontaneity and good humour. Cruise FM hopes to add to that, and maybe be the mouth piece the Cruise has been looking for all these years. Dick says Cruising is the most fun you can have with your clothes on, so if you're ever in London, make sure you're there on any last Saturday in the month. Go and see all the great machines, you'll never forget it, and don't forget to take a Radio with you, what with the sound of Engines echoing over the park and Cruise FM setting the airwaves on fire, It's a night to remember. See Ya there.

Adrian Cooke

RRD Annual Report

Publications from Government Departments are not the sort of reading which we would normally look at in this column, but the first such report from the Radio Regulatory Division of the Department of Trade and Industry is a slightly different case. In itself divisions within departments do not usually publish reports. Although the report covers the whole range of Radio work carried out by the RRD it is naturally the facts and figures behind the monitoring of the unlicensed stations which will grab the attention of the Free Radio Enthusiast. It is a spacious publication with an eye catching cover showing silver radio waves on a grey background. The department goes to great efforts within the report to soften its image to the Public, in his introduction Minister Geoffrey Pattie admits that, in the past there has been a distinct lack of communication with the Public. It is now the division's intention to change this to provide 'A service for responsible users', and to emphasise this a new name RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

Of particular interest to our listeners there is an interesting shot of the communicator, taken from one of the division's surveillance vessels during Eurosiege, that and other photographs and illustrations throughout the report is in full colour. Another shot under the heading 'Demise of the pirate antenna' shows the famous DTI crane used in London for the removal of equipment normally out of the division's reach. There is a table showing the numbers and values of prosecutions during the period the report covers. One figure has already been taken to task though. The report states that in the year ending April 1986 the number of regular operators had reduced from 27 to 7. However Media Monitor reports that the number of stations operating at that time was 7 in the London area alone.

Elsewhere the report covers frequency allocation, the licences awarded for special event stations, the growth of business communications, and the long heralded plans to move mobile operators out of band II to make room for a national IBA channel and for the final separation of Radios One and Two.

As a final thought a prepaid reply envelope is enclosed asking for comments on the publication. One question we would like to ask is the cost of monitoring unlicensed stations in comparison with that taken in fines.

The report covers 54 pages in A4 size, and is available Free of Charge from RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS DIVISION, DTI, Waterloo Bridge House, Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UA. Telephone 01-275-3000

BRS News

The third edition of this London based publication is now available, and is greatly improved on past copies. It is divided into two parts, the first concentrating on a summary of News and events on the London Free Radio scene over the past quarter. In addition there are also feature items on South East Sound and Solar Radio. The second part is the second edition of the organisation's Free Radio Merchandise list, the list consists mainly of off air and studio recordings from Border Radio, Radio Sovereign, Radio Jackie, South East Sounds, Radio Caroline and others. In addition there are lists of Programme schedules, and background information packs.

BRS News is printed in A4 format, large print and costs £1.20, Cheques should be made payable to A. Gordon.

BRS, BGM-BRS, London, WC1N 3XX.

Paul A. Rusling

The HITS 576 project was my baby, and was planned in August 1985 after the project I'd been working on in Connecticut, USA, ROCK 890 was shelved by the sole investor after the start of the bad publicity around the DIOPTRIC SURVEYOR arriving in the Thames Estuary.

The backer of ROCK 890 was a Norwegian who was in the process of gaining US naturalisation, essential to his operating his family shipping line from New York. Understandably he did not wish to incur the wrath of any authorities over there, and in the light of Eurosiege it appeared that the DTI may try and influence decisions in the USA. In consequence that project was shelved, and I turned the ground, particularly that gained with major advertisers in New York to a new project; HITS 576.

Meeting with several large corporate bodies and agencies on Madison Avenue I learned that their reluctance to deal with Laser was largely due to its apparent illegal status. The constant 'We are the biggest pirate ship' logo which was purveyed across there, and also the slogan All Europe Radio. That last phrase, along with an assertion that the station covered nine countries was seen by most advertising people as downright dishonest, and misleading. You can't con the very street wise New York Ads fraternity, they pride themselves on access to information, and immediately check up any facts you try to give them. When it's found you're exaggerating then, bang. They won't even talk to you again. That was the real problem Laser had.

The other problems were a lack of competent organisation, a lack of substantial support network, ie no friends; staggering crippling debts from its early days caused by sheer greed on some peoples part, but moreover the illegality of its supply routes.

These are all reasons cited by several advertisers, and as they call the tune I decided to put together an organisation without those faults.

When the backers were first approached I made it explicitly clear that our success depended on everything being absolutely correct. Once Laser's captain broke that cardinal rule of Offshore Radio (keep the ship at sea at all costs), then my backers wanted to take Laser's place, and do lots of things I could not countenance for I knew this would compromise the success of the whole project. Finally certain technical steps were taken, including non-guying of the tower, air cooled instead of water cooled generators, plus there was a matter of some promised funding not being available. One member of the consortium threatened my wife and daughter that I must do things his way, and so it was exit stage left, or rather to Florida where I'm now resident. There was certainly no funds accompanying me, I could have been extradited back for that anyway were that the case.

At the time I left the project negotiations had been completed to sell the whole of the project off to a group of Americans, I'm not a party to what has happened since and do not feel it my place to speculate. I wish the project well, whichever direction it takes.

Hear the sound of Mark Matthews on the Caroline Top 50 of 1986 recorded December 31st (2230-0030) and Peter Phillips on Caroline Overdrive, December 31st (2130-2230). These good quality recordings are available priced £2 per hour from Wavelength Po Box 5, Hunstanton, Norfolk PE36 5AU. Make cheques and postal orders payable to 'Wavelength'. Outside Europe please add 50p to cover additional postage costs.

A new Wavelength commercial has been prepared and is being dispatched to various free radio stations. To ensure of your copy write to Po Box 5 Hunstanton, Norfolk, PE36 5AU.

Steve West

Having successfully invaded the emerald isle, importing large quantities of highly suspect equipment, formed a short wave station and survived a morning at Radio Rainbow, our intrepid radio fanatics- still suffering from severe culture shock (all these stations and not a LTI man in sight!)- pay their last call to Boyneside Radio before setting off for Dublin, hub of the free radio universe.

Sunday September 28th:- Having left Rainbow and had lunch in Drogheda, we met Heady Eddie again at the Rossnaree Hotel a few miles south of the town, where the Boyneside Medium wave tx is located (1305kHz I think). This was more like it; behind the hotel an aerial mast seemingly made of scaffolding poles and fencing wire rose about 100 feet into the air and the radios immediately went into overload. Don't touch the guy wires we were told as we could get a bit of a sting from them (slight lack of insulators). The aerial itself was a quarter wave from the tx to the top of the mast and across to a nearby building. The ground plane consisted of a number of radials buried around the tx site, which apparently was somewhat boggy. We also heard of one of those slight problems which sometimes befalls stations; the staff at a certain station had just set up a new medium wave tx and aerial with a number of buried radials for a ground plane. It was then found that the station was putting out a very poor signal despite the supposedly high power tx etc. On looking closer it was found that the radials had been buried only a few inches below the surface of the adjoining field, and that the farmer had then done some ploughing. . . need I say more, but the replacement set of radials were buried quite a few feet deeper!

Getting back to the topic; Eddie then showed us what appeared to be an ordinary garden shed from which were coming the usual buzzing modulation-type noises and inside. . . spread across most of the floor was the tx. Sitting nearby on two milk crates was the FM tuner picking up the 99MHz link and the amp driving the two 813s in the modulator and, through the usual massive mod transformer, the four 813s in the P.A. Cooling air was provided by two household fans and a plank was missing at the back of the shed for fresh air. All around the tx were large numbers of smoothing capacitors and lines of rectifier diodes all with a couple of KV on them. We were also told of the time last Christmas when Heady Eddie had arrived at the site and gone into the shed to find a cat welded to the HT rail!! As usual, tuning was done by adjusting the two wooden blocks/alluminium sheets/glass plates in the L-tank. Surprisingly enough the only interference caused was to a payphone in the lobby of the hotel which was apparently better at being a radio than a telephone!

By now it was afternoon, and we still had the rest of the country to see before the weekend, so we headed south towards Dublin. Our first bit of detective work came when we went to visit Community Radio Fingal at Loughshinny near Skerries: unfortunately we didn't have an address for the station, so we put our extensive tracking skills to good use (anoraks please note) by driving around the area looking for anything that looked like a radio station. This wasn't too difficult(!) and within half an hour we had found the station. At first there didn't seem too much to it: a 100 foot mast with the usual quarter wave wire, tx within a steel container and an adjacent bungalow with the studio. This wasn't quite the case: on knocking at the bungalow we were pointed in the direction of the studio- located 100 yards away in what looked like an outside loo or small garden shed. On entering we found that what we had thought was a small shed had been divided into two to form an 'interview room' and studio. Within this shoebox was the DJ whose job seemed to consist of changing over the pre-recorded show tapes. Having squeezed in and taken our photos we then strolled over to the

tx. This was housed in the body of a van next to the bungalow and consisted of a maze of wires and twenty (yes, 20!) 807 p.a. valves together with associated fans etc. (Technical note: the only advantage of using this number of valves is that it gives you about 1 kilowatt out for only 750 volts).

Back on the road and on into Dublin. Having just passed the airport and generally keeping an eye out for anything radio-shaped we suddenly noticed two poles on top of keeping an eye out for anything radio-shaped we suddenly noticed two poles on top of a service garage, one of which supported two folded dipoles. On closer investigation the second pole was found to be load-ed up as a MW aerial complete with capacity hat: the only one we discovered during our trip. The station turned out to be North Dublin Community Radio and having spent five minutes banging at the door we were invited in for a look. The station itself was on 'automatic pilot' at the time with only an engineer to change over the taped programmes; this seems to be the typical way of running stations, especially the smaller ones, with taped programmes during the day and live shows in the evening. The larger stations of course are live most of the time.

We still had an hour or two left before dark so we made a detour to the Sands Hotel, Portmarnock, home of Sunshine Radio. This was by far the best equipped station that we saw during our trip: the first thing to catch our eyes was the lattice mast rising up behind the hotel. This supported six circularly polarised FM aerials as well as the MW aerial for 531kHz; this consisted of an aerial matching unit (funny black box with wires coming out) bolted to the back wall of the hotel and three aerial wires rising to the top of the mast where they split into several more running in all directions horizontally. The arrangement seemed odd (no doubt because of the low frequency) and appeared to be a mixture of inverted-L capacity hat loading and a cone. Walking around the side of the hotel we came across the portacabins housing the studios and the steel container holding the transmitters. Standing outside the tx store was what appeared to be a compressor, and which we were informed was a standby generator in case of a power failure. After waiting for a few minutes we were allowed in to see the studios: the inside of the portacabin was split into the office/library on the left, production studio ahead and on air studio to the right. Not having seen the station before and only having heard of it by reputation, I was slightly disappointed: I had expected something a bit more. . . well, flashy? Looking inside the studios there was just about all the equipment you'd need. VERY nice. Our big surprise came when talking to the 'duty jock': about six weeks before our visit the station had undergone a format change and become Sunshine Hot Hits 101. Apparently they had brought in somebody from the states to reorganise the station and improve its ratings with the peculiar result that the chair had been removed from the studio! This was to give the station a more lively sound although we were a bit sceptical about this because during the time that we were there and listening to Sunshine in the car the DJ never said a word and just played continuous music laced with jingles and ads. (Note: although US stations used to have 'stand up jocks' the studio chair is now being returned to its rightful place, no doubt to prevent a 'sit down strike'.)

After running off another dozen or so photos we left Sunshine and headed into Dublin. Eventually finding a B&B which could take all four of us - judging by the looks we got from the landlady she had never experienced an Anorak invasion before- we went off in search of Prince Terry and Westside Radio. Yet another eye-opener. This station didn't seem any different to a UK Short Wave station despite our belief that the basic studio we saw couldn't have produced the excellent sound on 6280. Could it? Afterwards, while enjoying our millionth cup of coffee, bikies etc, some friends arrived and an FM tx was produced for inspection. This was one of those 5 watt kits that are advertised in certain radio and electronics mags (a good enough reason for avoiding them) and the complaint was that it got very hot and didn't seem to have much of a range. Tweaking tools, Frequency counter (what's that?) swr meter were produced from the car and set up. The first problem was the tx: This was going a treat. . . on the second harmonic!